Ford reportedly reveals CIA assassination role

AR - 3/1/75 - Page A-26

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — President Ford reportedly told associates that if investigations of the Central Intelligence Agency "go too far," they could uncover its involvement in assassinations of several foreign officials, CBS-News said Friday night.

Ford reportedly learned of the killings from CIA Director William Colby and was shocked by them, according to CBS Washington correspondent Daniel Schorr.

Schorr said at least three assassinations reportedly are involved and are believed to have taken place in the 1960s or late 1950s.

The President reportedly said that if CIA involvement in the assassinations is made public, "this would embarrass the government and damage relations with at leat one foreign country," Schorr said.

Schorr reported that the assassinations allegedly were uncovered by Defense Secretary James R. Schlesinger in his previous post as CIA director. Schlesinger reportedly learned of the killings in May 1973 after he asked CIA employes to report questionable agency activities.

Schlesinger banned further use of assassination in August 1973, Schorr said.

An agency spokesman refused to comment. A White House spokesman said, "We have nothing to say about the report."

After a New York Times story last December on CIA domestic surveillance, Ford reportedly asked Colby for a report on "other potential minefields."

Schorr said Colby then told the President about the assassinations.